

Mr. Pym
His
S P E E C H
And
PROTESTATION
In
Parliament.

On FRIDAY, the Fourteenth
of JANUARY.

Concerning his Innocency, touching the
Articles of High Treason exhibited against him, and
the other Gentlemen, accused upon the same, and
his Humble motion to the House of Commons
the Lords to joyn with him in Petitioning
His Majesty that he may have Liberty
against what he may have
Liberty to vindicate himself
pardon.

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Master Pym,

HIS SPEECH AND PROTESTATION

in PARLIAMENT,

On Fryday the 14 of January, 1641.

Master Speaker;

I Am now come to speake againe to these Articles of high Treason exhibited against me and the other Gentlemen, with my selfe Accused. Although as I conceive, I have already sufficiently cleared my owne Innocency concerning the same; yet in respect it is not so conceived by them, by whom I am to be tryed; which is a select number of Noble Peers and worthy Members of this honourable House, I humbly crave leave to speake something more touching the same.

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same; and then leave my selfe and Actions to the righteous judgement of those by whom I am to have my tryall, and receive sentence.

Mr. Speaker, it is to me strange, and very hard to be accused of Treason illegally, and not proceeded against upon the same, by any charge, to prove the Articles but onely accused and brought to tryall onely upon the same, it is the course of the Parliaments of England, when any is by them accused of any Crime, to proceed against such by charge, in which they legally prove their Accusation by witnesses and perspicuous circumstances, making them manifest by the same, their guiltinesse of such Crimes layd to their charge, and to this charge (is permitted the accused person, legally to answer the same, except it be matter of fact punctually against him) by examination of witnesses on his part to defend his case and cleare his Innoeency. If this be the ordinary way of Parliamentary proceedings, against persons accused by them for any whatsoever, Treason or otherwise, then is this Accusation not seconded and maintained by a lawfull charge; but onely preferred and proficured; without such legall way: I conceive under favour of this Houle, contrary to the proceedings of Parliament,

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These six honourable personages Mr. Speaker, the Earle of *Essex*, *Holland*, *Pembroke*, *Salisbury*, Lord Say, and the Lord Keeper, joynd with as many of the worthy Members of this honourable House, to whom it hath pleased his Majesty of his Princely goodnesse, to refer our cause for small determination and sentence, I doubt not but they are of that wisdom and judgement, that nothing is to be expected from them but Justice; to whom I doe withall my heart submit my selfe and cause. I know the integrity and Loyalty of my owne heart, towards my gracious Sovereigne and Country; against whom I have not had the least thought of intending any evill, much lesse have beene an instrument to commit any designe, tending to the damage or dishonour of either, but far from my indeavours to practise any thing against the Fundamentall Lawes of this Kingdome, to bring in Arbitrary government or the like, but have alwayes, to the uttermost of my power, God is my witnesse, strived and laboured, with my best judgement and understanding, to defend the Lawes of this Land, the rights and lawfull liberties of the Subjects, the Royall power and Prerogative of his sacred Majesty, Parliaments, and the ancient rights and priviledges thereof. To appeale differences and divisions, to settle peace and unity betwene his Majesties Kingdomes; to bring to deserved punishment the Incendiaries in the same; to settle

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true Religion in the State, according to the purity of the sacred Word of God, to purge out the corruption, by Innovation of Superstitious Ceremonies and strange worshipping, introduced into the same. In all these things agreeing with the whole Parliament. Then Mr. *Speaker* can I not conceive in what I should be Criminalous & in what I should Treacherous; either to King or Common-wealth. And these my Actions I desire to defend, be it to the losse of life or fortunes.

To which purpose, I desire Mr. *Speaker* I may have liberty to protest against all such as shall oppose these my proceedings, or any wayes accuse or Impeach me for the same, and against these Articles upon which I am now Impeached.

And to that end, I *John Pym* Esquire, one of the Members of the High Court of Parliament, commanded to sit in the same, by the Royall power and Prerogative, of my lawfull and undoubted Sovereigne; and elected and chosen by free consent, and sent hither to serve both King and Country. Doe in the presence of Almighty God, Protest and vow, to the uttermost of my power, with the losse of life and fortunes, if it shall please God to call me thereunto; to defend and maintaine the lawfull power and Prerogative of the King, the Fundamentall Lawes of this Kingdome, the just rights and lawfull liberties of
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Subject, the honour and dignity, power and jurisdiction of his Majesty, and his High Court of Parliament, and the rights and priviledges thereof; true Religion according to the Word of God: and to endeavour to the uttermost of my power, to bring to deserved punishment all infringers of the priviledges of Parliament, all Incendaries of division and dissention, betweene the two Kingdomes, of *England* and *Scotland*, and all other Delinquents in this State, that have beene causers of oppressions, injustices and tyranny, over his Majesties Liege people; And by this my Protestation, doe vow to defend and maintaine mine owne Innocency and integrity, in all my Actions ever since my sitting in this House is a Member thereof; against any person or persons whatsoever, that have caused and procured the same to be called in question, and me to be accused as Criminous therefore.

And now Mr. *speaker*, having I hope sufficiently given satisfaction to this honorable house of my Innocency concerning these Articles, my motion is, that this House would be pleased to move the Lords on my behalfe, to joyre with them in Petitioning his Majesty that he would be pleased to make knowne my Accusers; that I may vindicate my selfe and reputation against them, concerning this my Accusation.

FINIS.

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